



Tasmania

DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

SCHOOL EDUCATION DIVISION

8 August 2006



Dr Ian Holland  
Environment, Communications, Information  
Technology and the Arts Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland

**Inquiry into women in sport and recreation in Australia**

I am responding to the letter you forwarded to David Hanlon, Deputy Secretary School Education, Department of Education Tasmania.

In response to your questions:

1. what physical education classes are required and what are available (but non-compulsory), in each year of school;

*Government schools in Tasmania have a requirement to provide 2 hours of physical activity per week for school age children. All government schools K-10 offer physical education and in all cases it is compulsory for at least K-8. Some secondary schools make Physical Education optional for their 9 and 10 students. Only a very small percentage of schools do not have a specialist health and physical education teacher on staff and all of these are very small primary schools*

2. what proportion of physical education classes are required to involve exercise activity;

*As mentioned in (1), the requirement is for 2 hours physical activity per week. How schools organise this is up to them and it is not possible to provide more specific information about this.*

3. what school sport during regular school hours is required, and what is available (but non-compulsory), in each year of school;

*The delivery of school sport across that state varies considerably between primary and secondary, and between schools. It is not possible to provide accurate information about this. There is no single coordinating body for school sport. All government primary and secondary schools engage in swimming, cross country and swimming carnivals at an intra and inter school level. Some primary school sport associations run mini rosters/tournaments for their schools on a seasonal basis but this is restricted to grades 3-6. Some clusters/groups of primary schools jointly offer sporting competitions for their schools. Such sporting events occur during school hours. Some primary school sport occurs on weekends or in the evenings e.g. minkey hockey, netball, soccer, and flippa ball – these events are open to government, catholic and independent schools. At secondary level, the Northern high schools have midweek sport on Wednesday afternoons for years 7 and 8 and on Thursday afternoons for years 9 and 10. They also offer some sport on weekends. In the North-West it is mostly weekend sport and in the South it is a combination of after school midweek and weekend. None of this is compulsory. The Tasmanian government provides recurrent funding to support school sporting associations in the state in order to increase and enhance sporting opportunities for children and young people.*

4. what other obligations are there to participate in school-organised sporting activity outside regular school hours; \_

*No child in the government system is obliged to participate in school-organised sporting activity outside regular school hours.*

5. in each of the above cases, what is included in the meaning of sport, physical activity or exercise;


*Sport is defined as activity which is structured and is guided by a set of rules and practices eg a roster, uniforms, codes of conduct, rules for play etc. Physical activity could include structured activity such as sport but is broader to include non-structured physical activity. Exercise implies a physical fitness element that focuses on the health-related components of fitness (strength, flexibility and cardiovascular endurance).*

6. in each of the above cases, who determines whether schools and students are complying with the relevant policy;

*Principals are required to verify that 2 hours of physical activity is being provided for all school age children.*

7. does the regulation of any of the above matters vary according to the type of school; (for example, public, Catholic or other private).

*The responses for points 1-6 are for government (public) schools only. There is variation between this provision and what is available in Catholic and independent schools. We are not in a position to provide information about practices in these other two school sectors.*



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